



League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula



VOTER



May 2010, Volume 82, No. 8

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



What Is this Water Deal?

LWVMP is sponsoring a public forum on the proposed Regional Water Project Settlement Agreement. Speaking will be **Diana Brooks** of the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Her topic: "The Regional Water Project Agreement, High Costs? Unfair Risks? Lack of accountability to Monterey Peninsula ratepayers? Questions?"

The date is **Tuesday, May 4**, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 490 Aguajito Road, Monterey, CA

DRA is the consumer protection arm of the CPUC, and Ms. Brooks will discuss DRA's final report on the Settlement Agreement. Preliminary findings found the agreement was unfair and unaccountable to ratepayers and did not include adequate cost controls. They also identified concerns about the governance structure since the Monterey Peninsula ratepayers have no direct representation.

Hear the Candidates Speak

The LWV Salinas Valley is sponsoring a candidates' forum for three offices: Supervisorial District 2 (Calcagno and Mitchell), county superintendent of schools, and county sheriff, on **Monday, May 3**, at the Performing Arts Center, room 125, Hartnell College, Salinas.

Each office will be fit into a 50-minute session: supervisor (6:00 pm to 6:50 pm), school superintendent (7:00 pm to 7:50 pm), and sheriff (8:00 pm to 8:50 pm).

Annual Meeting

Please come to the LWVMP Annual Meeting, **Wednesday May 12**. Please note the meeting will start at 11:15 AM. It is important to get good attendance to meet the required quorum to conduct business.

After the luncheon, **Sally Lieber** will speak on "Why California Needs Proposition 15." Ms. Lieber is a former member of the California State Assembly and former mayor of Mountain View, CA.

Bring your check book if you want to renew your membership at this time.

That Dual Role

Since its founding the League has established dual roles in voter education and advocacy. The League takes no positions on candidates. All activity is voter education. As always, use <www.SmartVoter.org> for candidate information.

With issues, the League can establish positions to advocate for after study and consensus. The state League is urging "Yes" on Prop 15 and "No" on Prop 16.

Under its voter education role, the League has gathered background information, the arguments for and against all of the propositions on the ballot at <http://www.cavotes.org/vote/election/2010/june/8>

Work at the Polls

I still need four more volunteers to staff the LWVMP polling place. Call me 372-9388. Thanks,

DENNIS MAR

The LWVMP

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Appointed Positions

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Dennis Mar, Marilyn Maxner,
and Jeanne Melaugh

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VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

June 8, 2010

Statewide Primary Election

SUPPORT Proposition 15: California Fair Elections Act

Huge amounts of money are raised in California politics, giving special interests unfair influence and access and shutting out the rest of us. Proposition 15 takes an important step toward getting politicians out of the fundraising game. It is a pilot project to make voluntary public financing available to Secretary of State candidates in 2014 and 2018. Only candidates showing broad support and agreeing to strict reporting and spending limits would receive funding. Violators would face fines, possible jail time, and prohibitions from running for office in the future. The pilot program would be funded primarily by fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates. Proposition 15 will allow elected officials to start focusing on the public's interest, instead of returning political favors to their campaign donors.

OPPOSE Proposition 16: Imposes New Two-Thirds Voter Approval Requirement for Local Public Electricity Providers

Proposition 16 would amend the state Constitution to require a city or special district that provides electricity to obtain the approval of two-thirds of the voters before expanding its service territory or providing new service to its customers if public funds are involved. Two-thirds approval by the voters would also be required for a local government to buy power at wholesale prices to sell to residents through a Community Choice Aggregation program. The LWVC opposes this supermajority vote requirement that would allow a minority to prevent decisions on electric supply favored by a majority of the people to be served. PG&E, the largest for-profit utility in the state, is the sole sponsor of Prop 16 and would benefit from this measure's stifling of competition. The impact would be fewer choices and thus higher rates for consumers, and fewer opportunities for local agencies to offer renewable green power.

NO RECOMMENDATION on the other measures on this ballot

The League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula publishes the **Monterey Peninsula VOTER** September through May. Submission deadline is the second Saturday of each month. Send copy to the *VOTER* Editor Jeanne Melaugh (622-0892) by email to JMelaugh@comcastl.net or mail to:

LWVMP, P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA

MAY 2010 ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN:

Wednesday, May 12, 2010, 11:15 am

WHERE:

Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey, CA

COST: \$18.00 per person

DEADLINE FOR PHONE OR EMAIL RESERVATIONS:

Friday, May 7, 2010

FOR RESERVATIONS, CONTACT LORITA FISHER AT:

375-8301 or
GLFisher@redshift.com

WE'D LIKE YOU TO JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Any person of voting age, male or female,
may become a League member.

Name(s) _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email, etc: _____

Send me more information about the League.

I want an email reminder for the luncheons.

I want a phone reminder for the luncheons.

Email League news to me.

Please clip this coupon and mail it with your dues to:

LWVMP, P.O. Box 1995, Monterey, CA 93942

Enclosed is my check for the following level of membership:

- \$250 Carrie Chapman Catt
- \$200 Sojourner Truth
- \$150 Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- \$100 Susan B. Anthony
- \$ 75 Household (2 people at the same address)
- \$ 50 Single
- \$ 25 F or young persons and non-citizens

Dues and contributions are not deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes. Contributions to the League of Women Voters of California Educational Fund (LWVCEF) are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The LWVMP

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DIRECTIONS TO THE ELKS LODGE

From Munras Avenue turn on to Soledad Avenue. Go approximately two (long) blocks. Turn left, uphill, on Monte Vista. Continue another long block and turn left on Porta Vista. Turn right into the Elks Lodge parking lot.

PROGRAM CALENDAR May 2010

May 5, Wednesday, 12 noon – 1:30 P.M.

Natural Resources Committee
Mariposa Hall, Monterey
Contact: George Riley, 645-9914

May 12, Wednesday, 11:15 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Annual Meeting:
"Why California Needs Proposition 15,
the Fair Elections Act"
Elks Lodge, Monterey
Contact: Lorita Fisher, 375-8301

Time and location to be determined

Joint Board Meeting
Contact: Dennis Mar, 372-9388



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



ANNUAL MEETING

DATE: 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, May 12, 2010 (please note early start time)

SPEAKER: **Sally Lieber**

Ms. Lieber was elected to the California State Assembly in 2002 to represent the 22nd Assembly District, the Heart of Silicon Valley. During this time she served as the Assembly's Speaker pro Tempore, only the third woman to hold this position since 1849.

Ms. Lieber authored landmark legislation on human trafficking, raised the State's minimum wage, and won significant environmental battles for cleaner air in California. Before election to the State Assembly, Ms. Lieber served on the City Council, was Mayor of the City of Mountain View, and served as a Santa Clara County Commissioner. In each of these positions she has shown a commitment to opening up the political process.

TOPIC: **Getting Our Leaders Out of the Money Game:
Why California Needs Proposition 15, the Fair Elections Act**

LOCATION: Elks Lodge, 150 Mar Vista Drive, Monterey
The \$18 hot lunch requires a reservation. The presentation by Sally Lieber is free, is from 12:45 to 2:00 p.m., and does not require a reservation.